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EDITORIAL

A number of societies which hold individual membership in the National Council of Teachers of English have formed clubs of subscribers to the *English Journal*. As a means of inducing many to become readers of the magazine who would otherwise be without it, this arrangement is wholly admirable. But when regular members of the National Council are thereby tempted to relinquish their membership we mourn. A nation-wide movement is well under way which promises to do more for English teaching in America than all other agencies combined. It deserves support. All who can should participate to the fullest extent. Most of the leaders in the English societies of every state are now actively interested in furthering the purposes of the national body. Having once put his hand to the plow, let no man turn back.

Doubtless all appreciate the significance of the special meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English at Philadelphia February 28 and March 1. The problem of improving the conditions of English teaching and the efficiency of English teachers is at bottom an administrative problem. Teachers may discover and loudly proclaim that results cannot be secured so long as classes are both too numerous and too large, but it is the principals and superintendents who must devise ways of reducing classes and hours of teaching. Hence the importance of calling to the attention of supervisors the results of recent investigations which the National Council has made. Moreover, it is in the section of the country in which Philadelphia is situated that the need of adjustment between school and college has been most keenly felt. The discussion of the proposed national syllabus or outline of the high-school course in English ought, for this reason, to be of far more than passing interest. It is possible that at Philadelphia a bit of educational history will be written.

Dame Rumor has lost none of her proverbial swiftness. Before all the members have been appointed, we hear that the new National Committee on the Preparation of College Teachers of English is planning an attack upon the administration of the graduate schools. Why so sensitive, brethren? Cannot those who have been trained in the graduate schools be trusted to prize them at their true worth? There is, however, a pressing need for more men who can adapt themselves to the task of instructing Freshmen and Sophomores, and several universities have already begun to devise means of supplying them. All should do so without delay. This ought ye to have done and not to have left the other undone.

The annual convention of the National Council has come and gone. It was in many ways a remarkable meeting, and those present will not soon lose the impressions which were received from it. The question arises: What permanent results may be looked for? This will depend upon the extent to which the associations which were represented at the convention take up and carry on the ideas which were there advanced. Such topics as "The Relation of Public Speaking to Other English Studies," "The Labor of Composition Teaching," "The Opinions of Graduates," "The Adaptation of the English Course to Local Conditions and Needs" should be fully discussed in gatherings of English teachers everywhere. If the best methods of conducting English studies, the best conditions for doing so, and the equipment necessary are ever to become general, all must unite in securing them and in propagating knowledge of them. Let us hang together rather than separately.